

Matter of Fact:

BEING

A Short but True

A C C O U N T

OF THE

Birth, Education, and Ordination

OF

→ *William Paul*, Clergyman, K

Who was Executed for

High Treason,

July the 13th, 1716.

CONTAINING

Several Original Letters concerning his Tryal and Condemnation: With his Petition to His Majesty King *GEORGE*, and the Lord Chief Justice, for his Life.

By one that knew him before, and at the time of his Confinement in *Newgate*.

With an *APPENDIX*.

London: Printed for *J. Baker*, and *T. Warner*,
in *Pater-Noster-Row*. [Price 4d.]

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Matter of Fact:

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A Short but True

ACCOUNT

OF THE

Birth, Education, and Ordination

OF

William Paul, Clergyman,

Who was Executed for High
Treason,

July the 13th, 1716.

William Paul, Clerk, who liv'd
and dy'd a Batchelor, was
the Son of *John Paul*, of
Little Ashby near *Lutter-*
worth, in the County of *Leicester*, late-
ly

ly deceas'd ; his Mother was Daughter to Mr. Barfoot of *Street-fields* in *Warwickshire* ; they had a Freehold Estate at the Place aforesaid of about sixty or seventy Pounds *per Annum*, lived in good Repute, and had five Children, of which, *William* was eldest, and born at *Asbby* aforesaid, about the Year 1678 ; brought up at School, the greatest Part of his Time, by the Reverend Mr. *Thomas Seagrave*, Rector of *Leir* in *Leicestershire* : About the Year 1697, he removed to a School at *Rugby* in *Warwickshire*, and remained there, under the Care of Mr. *Holyoak*, Master thereof, for near two Years ; and from thence he went to *Cambridge*, and was admitted into St. *John's* College, about May, 1698, under Mr. *John Harris*, Fellow of the same ; he was at first a Sizer, and then made Scholar ; soon after which, his Tutor died ; and he, among other Pupils, was turn'd over (as they say in *Cambridge*) to Mr. *Edmundson* and *Lambert* : He took his Batchelor of Arts Degree 1702 ; and soon after went into Orders under

He was Curate of *Carlton Curliu*, near *Harborough*, *Leicestershire*, and at
the

the same time Chaplain to Sir *Geoffry Palmer*: From thence he went to *Tamworth* in *Staffordshire*, and was Curate and Usher at the Free-School there: He went from thence to *Nun-Eaton* in *Warwickshire*, and was Curate to Mr. *Foxcraft*: From thence he remov'd, being presented to the Vicarage of *Orton* on the Hill, *Leicestershire*, by the late Lord Bishop of *Oxon*: The Village is situate in the South-West Corner of the County, both in the Deanery and Hundred of *Sparkenboe*: It is valued in the King's Book at six Pounds, twelve Shillings and Six-pence; and the improved Rents are fifty or sixty Pounds *per Annum*.

He was instituted into the afore said Vicarage by his Grace the present Lord Arch-bishop of *Canterbury*, then Bishop of *Lincoln*, on the 5th Day of *May*, 1709; to qualify himself for which, he took the usual Oaths to *Queen Anne*, and abjured the Pretender. He was one of those that oppos'd the King's Friends at the late Election for the County of *Leicester*, rais'd a Mob, and then certified, that it was carry'd on
with

with great Peace and Calmness, and without the least Riot and Disturbance.

He went down with *Gascoign*, and some others that he would not name, to meet the Rebels at *Preston*, was seiz'd on the way by one commonly called Major *Bradshaw*, and Mr. *Matthews*, a Clergyman, and set at Liberty again by one Colonel *Noel*, a Justice of the Peace in that Country; but being born to be hang'd, he goes to *Preston*, reads Prayers to the Rebels three Days together, and prays for the *Pretender*, (in the Parish Church) by the Name of King *James*, before five Hundred of his Brethren at once: But just before King *GEORGE*'s Troops Invested that Town, he made the best of his Way out, and just calling in his own Country by the way, he came to *London*; and being disguised in coloured Cloaths, laced Hat, a long Wigg, and a Sword by his Side, he was accidentally met near *Montague House*, by *Thomas Byrd*, Esq; a Justice of the Peace for the County of *Leicester*, who knew him and took him Prisoner, December the
12th,

12th, 1715. He made no Resistance, tho' a lusty Man, but suffer'd himself to be carry'd to the Duke of *Devonshire's*; then before the Lord *Townshend*, his Majesty's Principal Secretary of State, who, after a short Examination, without any Confession, first committed him to the Custody of a Messenger, and about fourteen Days after sent him to *Newgate*.

Upon the One and Thirtieth of *May*, he was arraign'd at *Westminster* before Lord *Parker*, &c. And pleaded *Not Guilty* to the Indictment that was found against him: And being return'd to *Newgate*, he sent the following Letter to a Friend.

Good Sir,

IF Time will permit, I desire your Company for one Minute, upon the Receipt of this,

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this, and you'll for ever oblige

Tours to Command,

William Paul.

Upon his Friend's Arrival at the Port of Newgate, Paul the Prisoner, said, *What must I do? I am this Day Arraigned, and have Pleaded Not Guilty, but that's little to the Purpose;* and then continu'd, with Tears in his Eyes, *There is too much will be prov'd against me.* Upon which, I reply'd, *If this be true, and you are already Condemned in your own Conscience, to what purpose do you stand your Tryal? You have sufficiently provok'd the Government already, and will exasperate it more, by denying that, which, by your own Confession, will be prov'd against you; but however, do as you please, I will perswade you to nothing; but in my Opinion, the best way is, to confess your Fault; ask Pardon; and*
throw

throw your self upon the King's Mercy. Upon which he said, Mr. Darnel, my Council, and Mr. Taylor, my Solicitor, have told me the same, and I am fully resolv'd to follow their advice, being unwilling to be Hang'd, if I can possibly help it; but I cannot tell what method to take, because, already I Plead, Not Guilty. I told him then, he must Petition the Judges. And he answer'd, I know not what Method to do it in; will you assist me in this Weighty Affair? My thoughts are confus'd, and I am Ignorant at best, in things of this Nature. I told him I would; and so soon as possible two Petitions were drawn, viz. June 9th, one to the Lord Chief Justice King; the other to his Majesty; both which he Heartily approv'd, resolv'd to present them, and the true Copies thereof follow.

B

To

To the Right Honourable Sir *Peter King*,
Lord Chief Justice,
&c. The humble
Petition of *William Paul*, Clerk,

Sheweth,

THAT your Petitioner, thro' the
Grace of God, having a deeper
Insight into, and a more lively
Sence of the Crimes and Offences by
him Committed, doth now at last,
detest and abhor (from the Bottom
of his Soul) the late unnatural Re-
bellion, begs Pardon of God, King
George, and his Native Country,
against all which he has highly
offended; sincerely Repents, declares
his

his unfeigned and hearty Sorrow, in having been Instrumental toward encouraging and promoting the same. He owns himself to be highly Cul-
pable in Pleading Not Guilty at his Arraignment; Prays leave to re-
tract that Plea; acknowledges the Indictment preferred and found a-
gainst him to be just and true; Implores and hopes your Lord-
ships, from Innate Goodness, and Christian Charity, will be pleas'd
to Recommend him to his most Sa-
cred Majesty, as a Sincere Penitent,
and tho' unworthy, an Object of
Mercy, for which,

As bound in Duty, he your
Petitioner shall for ever
Pray.

The other,

To his most Sacred
Majesty, George by
the Grace of God,
King of Great Bri-
tain, &c. The hum-
ble Petition of *Wil-*
liam Paul, Clerk.

Sheweth,

THAT your Petitioner, now a
Prisoner in Newgate, for the
late unnatural Rebellion against your
Majesty, which he detests and ab-
hors; humbly begs leave in all
Sorrow of Heart, to acknowledge
this great and heinous Offence, and
from the bottom of his Soul ask
Pardon

Pardon of God, your most Sacred Majesty, and the Church and Nation; all which he owns thereby to have highly offended. And therefore in all Submission, prostrates himself at your Sacred Feet; begs for Mercy, promises and vows all Loyalty and Obedience, to your Majesty's Person and Government for the time to come, and that no seditious humour shall stir, or move him from his Duty: And therefore humbly hopes, your Majesty's Piety and Goodness will Pardon past Offences and Crimes by him committed, and accept his sincere, and hearty Repentance.

*And from the true Affection of his Heart (as in Duty Bound) shall be poured out Daily, and Devout Prayers to the God of Heaven, for your Majesty's long Life, happy
Reign*

*Reign, prosperous Estate, and Royal
Posterity in this World, and for
ever and ever.*

*June the 15th, the Day of his Tryal,
being come, he appears again in West-
minster Hall, before the Lord Chief
Justice King; withdrew his former
Plea, Pleaded Guilty, and receiv'd Sen-
tence of Death accordingly, upon which
he writes the following Letter.*

Good Sir,

*I desire your Company this Morn-
ing; I am under Sentence of
Death; pray, Sir, come as soon as
you can,*

I am

Yours to Command,

*Nine of the
Clock, Saturday.*

William Paul.

I went to him in the Afternoon, and found him in a hurry, and great confusion, he said little more, than, *I hope you'll go to the Arch-Bishop of Canterbury, and do what you can for to save my Life; for this is the time to try my Friends; and several have told me, I shall certainly be hang'd, because I'm a Clergyman.* I told him, 'twas an Invidious Reflection thrown upon the Government, by such as wish'd the Ruine of that as effectually as they had compassed his own, and therefore bid him give no regard to such wicked Stories, nor have any thing to do with the Authors of them, which, I suppose, are those *Non-Jurors*, which come Daily to see you. And then we parted.

But upon the 28th of *June*, another Letter came from the Prisoner, in these Words.

Good

Good Sir,

I *Desire you to deliver the Enclosed,
and you'll Oblige,*

Yours to Command,

William Paul.

Read and then Seal it up. It was
Directed To His Grace the Arch-Bishop
of Canterbury, and ran thus ;

My Lord,

M^R *Crime for being among the Re-
bels at Preston, I acknowledge,
and am heartily sorry, as I own'd at my
Tryal : I humbly desire Your Grace to
Intercede with His Majesty, to beg my
Life, which if spared, I promise, with
a sincere Resolution, to spend the remain-
der of it in Prayers for His Sacred
Majesty, and Illustrious Family. I am
wholly*

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wholly destitute of Friends to implore
Mercy for me, therefore I do not ques-
tion but Your Generous Temper and
Compassion will move You to Assist me;
One that had once the Honour to be
Instituted into a Living in Your Diocese
of Lincoln by Your Grace. I beg leave
to assure Your Lordship, You cannot
bestow Your Favour on any one that
will be more Penitent, than he that
is, with all Obedience,

Your Lordship's

Most Humble Servant,

William Paul.

This Occasioned the following An-
swer.

C

June

June the 30th,

S I R,

ACcording to your Desire, Yesterday I delivered your Letter to the Archbishop of Canterbury, who receiv'd it coldly, and ask'd me, *What you would have him for to do?* I answer'd, if he pleas'd but to read the Contents of yours, they would thoroughly inform him; upon which, he look'd upon the Beginning, and said, *He did not care to meddle in the matter, and was afraid, your present seeming Sorrow proceeded more from fear of Punishment, than true Repentance, and that if at Liberty, you wou'd be much the same Man, as you was before.*

I told his Grace, I hoped not, for you promis'd otherwise. Upon which he reply'd, *He should see Lord T——d in an Hour's Time, and may be he might acquaint him with it.*

After-

Afterward I met with a Gentleman belonging to the Bishop of *L——don*, who told me, *That he did not believe any Petition had been delivered to his Lordship upon your Account; but that, on the contrary, 'twas generally said in the Family, had you been try'd, 'twould have been prov'd to your Face, that you did press your Parishioners, upon Pain of Damnation, to own, acknowledge, and assist the Pr——r, who was their only true and lawful K——g. And therefore, as this seems to be credited, conclude.*

Another Person then present, assured me for Truth, that you did neither deliver a Petition to *Sir Peter King* in Court, nor desire his Lordship to present one to His Majesty, to give you your Life; at which (if true) I am extreamly surpriz'd, and wonder that you shou'd desire that of another, you neglect to your self, and can think no other, but that such Dealing (which I am unwilling to believe) is unkind

C 3

kind to your Friend, but more disserviceable and unfaithful to your self; for if you heard with me what is generally said without Doors concerning your Condition, you cou'd not but think the greatest Sorrow, most sincere Repentance, a free and open Confession of your Faults, Promise of Amendment, and unwearied Application, little enough to prevent Execution.

I would not have you think I write this either to aggravate or inflame the Matter, but out of pure Compassion, and to lay the real state of the Case before you, that so you might make a Judgment for yourself.

Your immediate Answer to the Particulars, will oblige him; he prays for your happy Deliverance and is with all Sincerity,

Yours, &c

This produced what follows:

June 30, 1716.

Dear Sir,

I Am sorry I should lose so good a Friend as I expected the Bishop of *Canterbury* would be: I sent my Petition to him by the Order of his Chaplain, into the Country. A Petition was deliver'd to the Bishop of *London's* own Hand, and another to the Bishop of *Lincoln*, with a Petition to his Majesty. Mr. *Taylor*, my Solicitor, deliver'd my Petition to Sir *Peter King*.

I hope you will not think I impose upon my Friend; but beg, with all Sincerity, you will believe what I say: If ever I preach'd up Rebellion, or advis'd my Parishioners to take up Arms, I call God to witness, I'll willingly suffer this Day; or ever told them the *Pretender* was their lawful King. I have a Certificate

tificate handed by most of the Parish, which I have just now sent to the Archbishop, testifying the same.

I beg you will let me see you this Afternoon; and you will for ever oblige

Your Friend and Brother,

William Paul.

Accordingly I went, and he ask'd me, what I thought of his Condition; and I freely told him, Every *Whig* to a Man, except my self, said he ought to be hang'd; and I did not know one *Tory*, that either wish'd or endeavour'd to save him; upon which, he said, He had writ to all his Friends in the *Country*, over and over, and not one was so kind as to send him an Answer, or endeavour to help him from that Place of Torments; adding, ' I know you are acquainted with
' Lords ———, see whether you
' can prevail with them to intercede
' for my Life, and that either by
Word

‘ Word of Mouth, or by way of
‘ Petition, as they think proper; and
‘ I will send one inclos’d to mor-
‘ row Morning at farthest. Which
was *Sunday, July* the 1st; and ac-
cordingly it came with a Letter in
these Words:

Dear Sir,

WHAT Words to put the Peti-
tion in I can’t tell; If this be
wanting in any thing, if you please to
alter it, as their Lordships think fit,
if they’ll do me the Honour to present
it, and beg my Life, they shall find
me an Object worthy of their Mercy
and Compassion, I leave the whole to
you, to talk with their Lordships, as
you please, not doubting but you will
use your utmost Endeavours for your
former Friend. I am

Yours,

W. P.

I desire you to write it in a better Hand.

The Petition was in these Words, and likewise written with his own Hand.

WE Your Majesty's most humble Petitioners in the behalf of *William Paul*, Clerk, now a Prisoner in *Newgate*, and under Sentence of Death, for being unfortunately two Days among the Rebels at *Preston*, whom he left before Your Majesties Forces came up. He being wholly destitute of Friends, makes us, out of Christian Charity, presume upon Your Majesties Goodness, to intercede for his Life, which if spared, we are assured will be employ'd in begging of the Almighty, to pour down the abundance of His Blessings on Your Royal Person, and Illustrious Family, and the Good of these Kingdoms:

And Your Petitioners, &c.

The next Day I went, as he desired, but was unsuccessful as before; and therefore did not deliver the ungrateful

ful Answer, least I should Litterally prove one of *Job's* Comforters: And he being then better Advised by *Non-juring Parsons*, his daily Attendants did not think it worth while, either to send for, or to me again: So, to what happened after, I am wholly a Stranger; and this, to use the Words of his Fellow-Sufferer, is *the Truth, the whole Truth, and nothing but the Truth*. And this I can say with an honest Heart, *That I serv'd him faithfully, to the utmost of my Power*, and laboured more abundantly than all the rest; tho' not out of any kindness to their *Wicked Cause*, which I call God to Witness, my Soul hateth, but Personal Respect to the unhappy Man, with whom I had been long acquainted; and yet at last am called, but **PRETENDED FRIEND**; but however, I heartily forgive him this ungrateful Wrong, and all others from the bottom of my Heart.

APPENDIX.

The two following Letters were written by Mr. *William Paul* on the 9th of *July*, to his Grace the Lord Archbishop of *Canterbury*. And also, two more to the Lord *Townshend*.

May it please your Grace,

ATT my Tryal I thought I had a very good Plea, but was advis'd by the Lawers, as the suerest way to obtain Mercy, to plead guilty, upon which I threw my self wholly upon the King's Mercy. What Confession the Court would have from me, I can't tell; I am sure your Grace would not have me for the World spake more than I know. I declare before Almighty God, upon the Word of a Clergyman, I never brought any Letter out of *Preston*, or went to any one Gentle man,

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Gentleman, or spoke the least thing that tended that Way, *viz.* to Rebellion, but came into my own Country, as fast as I could, and so to *London*, where I was seiz'd and sent to *Newgate*. I humbly desire your Grace once more to believe me, and to use your utmost Endeavours to save a poor Clergyman's Life: If it will not be granted to spend the Remainder of it in *England*, I beg you'll be pleas'd to send me to the Plantations, or any where rather than *Tyburn*. I humbly desire your Grace to consider your poor afflicted Servant, and take him from this nasty Prison.

My Lord,

I am

your Lordship's most Humble,

and most Obedient Servant,

William Paul.

D 2

My

My Lord, I never did, since I was
in *Newgate*, pray for the *Pretender*
by any Name or Title.

My Lord,

I BEG pardon for troubling your
Grace, but presuming upon your
Goodness once again, humbly desire
you to interceed with his Royal Hig-
ness for Mercy. The dead Warrant
is come down for Execution Friday
next: What ill Steps I have made in
my Life past, I hope Almighty God
will forgive me; but the things that
are laid to my charge, *viz.* Preaching
up Rebellion, advising my Parishoners
to take up Arms, and that I Preached
several Seditious Sermons, all which
are faulse upon the Word of a Clergy-
man, as I have a Cirtificate to prove
for six Years, the time of my being
att *Orton*, handed by most of the Pa-
rish. Another thing is objected against
me, that I was concern'd in several Con-
sultations, but I am innocent and igno-
rant, I cal God to witness, of any De-
sign that was formed in any Part of the
Kingdom

Kingdome against the Government; and if ever I knew of any Meeting, but where I was unfortunatly at *Preston*, or Consultation, or ever ask'd or advis'd any Body to rise in Rebellion, I am willing to suffer.

I desire your Grace will endeavour to save me this time from that ignominious Death of the Halter, and despose of me in what Part your Lordship pleaseth. If nothing can be done, I humbly desire your Lordship's Blessing and Prayers for Patience and Courage in this severe time of Tryal. For God sake, my Lord, do what lies in your Power to save the Life of a poor afflicted Clergyman, the remaining part of which shal be spent in Prayers for your Grace, and all that endeavour'd to bring me out of these great Troubles.

My Lord,

Newgate,
9th July.

*I am your Lordship's
most Humble and
most Obedient Servant,*

At

My Lord, I never did, since I was in *Newgate*, pray for the *Pretender* by any Name or Title.

My Lord,

I BEG pardon for troubling your Grace, but presuming upon your Goodness once again, humbly desire you to interceed with his Royal Highness for Mercy. The dead Warrant is come down for Execution Friday next: What ill Steps I have made in my Life past, I hope Almighty God will forgive me; but the things that are laid to my charge, *viz.* Preaching up Rebellion, advising my Parishoners to take up Arms, and that I Preached several Seditious Sermons, all which are faulse upon the Word of a Clergyman, as I have a Certificate to prove, for six Years, the time of my being att *Orton*, handed by most of the Parish. Another thing is objected against me, that I was concern'd in several Consultations, but I am innocent and ignorant, I cal God to witness, of any Design that was formed in any Part of the Kingdom

Kingdome against the Government; and if ever I knew of any Meeting, but where I was unfortunatly at *Preston*, or Consultation, or ever ask'd or advis'd any Body to rise in Rebellion, I am willing to suffer.

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My Lord,

Newgate,
9th July.

*I am your Lordship's
most Humble and
most Obedient Servant,*

At

At the same Time he sent the following Letter to the Right Honourable the Lord Viscount *Townshend*.

ATT my Tryall I pleaded Guilty, throing my self wholly upon his Majestie for Mercy, to whom I have got a Petition presented to beg my life, promising with a sincere resolution to spend the remainder of it, if spared, in Prayers for his sacred Majestie and illustrious Familie. But, my Lord, I am destitute of Friends to implore Mercy for me; I most humbly intreat your Lordship to interceed for me, trusting to your Goodness, hoping all from you. I beg Leave to assure your Lordship, you cannot bestow your Favours on any one that will be more Penitent, or pray God more heartily for you then, my Lord, he that is with all Respect

Your Lordship's most Humble and

Most Obedient Servant,

Wm. Paul.

The

The following Letter was written by
William Paul, the Night before his
 Execution, to the Right Honourable
 the Lord Viscount *Townshend*.

My Lord,

MR. *Patten* was so kind to pay me
 a Visit in my Affliction, and
 desired me if I knew any thing relating
 to the Government, I would declare
 it. My Lord, I solemnly declare, I
 call Almighty God to witness, I car-
 ried no Letter of from *Preston*, tho I
 told Mr. *Patten* so, which was only a
 Faint that I might go of; and if Mr.
Patten will do me Justice, he can tell
 your Lordship how uneasy I was when
 I discover'd my Rashness. My Lord,
 I depend solely upon your Lordship's
 Goodness in this my miserable Condi-
 tion. I wish, my Lord, I could have
 my Life saved, that I might shew to
 the World how heartily I am sorry for
 all

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all my past Errors; and no Man shall
demonstrate it more, then

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most Humble,

And most Obedient Servant,

William Paul.

My Lord, Mr. Patten sayth it is an
Aggravation to my Crime, that I
pray'd in expres Terms in *Newgate*
for the Pretender by the Name of
K. James, I declare I never did.
I once more crave your Lordship's
kind Assistance to procure me my
Life.



F I N I S.

